

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

17

INFORMATION

TOPIC

HUSH 2006-2007 DEER DONATION REPORT

The Department requests the Commission to review the attached “Final Deer Donation Annual Report for 2006-2007 Season” regarding the total funds expended and acquired for the DNR’s Help Us Stop Huger (HUSH) program. The Department has been managing this deer donation program for nearly the past five years, in conjunction with the Food Bank of Iowa and several meat lockers and processors around the state. The HUSH program has grown to become a significant program within the DNR and has required staff to develop administrative rules to better define and manage the program.

Attachment

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
May 10, 2007

Final Deer Donation Annual Report for 2006-2007 Season

R. Harrison, 4-20-07

\$1 HUSH Fee Income from Deer Permits

Income from the \$1 HUSH fee on deer tags was \$365,962, down 3.5% from the prior year. Fewer tags were distributed to landowner/tenants than the year before due to the new requirement to register their property.

HUSH Administrative Spending (estimates)

\$900 for 20,000 HUSH brochures for hunters
\$6,400 for 200,000 freezer bags for lockers
\$200 for 10,000 cards hunters fill out at lockers
\$700 for HUSH posters at lockers
\$1,000 estimate for postage/in-house printing and other supplies
\$9,200 TOTAL for promotional and communications activities

All Donated Deer

A total of 6,820 deer were donated by Iowa hunters, which included 6,482 for HUSH, 275 for two chapters of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry and 63 for a Dept. of Corrections facility. This represents nearly a 7% increase from the prior year.

HUSH Summary

The 6,482 deer donated to HUSH at 80 lockers yielded 284,484 pounds of venison for a 43.9 pounds per deer average, about a 4% decline in dressed out efficiency from the previous year. This venison provided more than 1.1 million quarter pound servings.

Lockers were paid \$60 per deer for processing and the Food Bank of Iowa \$5 per deer for venison distribution arrangements and administrative services. These costs were \$388,920 and \$34,210 respectively, or \$423,139 in total. When DNR administrative costs of \$9,200 are added, the HUSH program expended \$66,368 more than was taken in from the extra \$1 fee on deer tags.

Other Donated Deer

FHFH

Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, a national faith-based deer donation program that raises its own local money to process deer for the needy, had established two chapters in Iowa during the season, Muscatine and Fairfield. Using its own funds, FHFH paid to have an additional 275 deer processed, a savings of \$18,875 to the DNR. FHFH is hopeful that it will establish five additional chapters next year.

Rockwell Correctional Center

63 deer were donated to the Rockwell Correctional Center which paid \$30/deer to the Yetter Locker to remove the hide, head and hooves, with inmates doing the remaining processing.